(a) and (b) School education is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The State Governments provide necessary assistance for improvement of physical infrastructure in high schools located in rural areas under their respective jurisdiction. The Central Government are providing financial assistance to the States under certain Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. (i) Improvement of Science Education in Schools ; (ii) Environmental Orientation to School Education ; (iii) Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools ; (iv) Vocational Education : and (v) Integrated Education for the Disabled Children for development of specific physical and curricular inputs for High school students in accordance with the various components approved under each scheme.

The Central Government are also undertaking Border Area Development Programme under which the border areas of Gujarat, J. & K., Punjab and Rajasthan are being provided funds for upgradation of schools, construction of additional classrooms/laboratories in existing schools and provision of essential facilities.

"Providing wasteland to Forests based industries

2190. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of bamboo and wood produced in the country is consumed by paper mills and the plywood factories, resulting in tremendous amount of loss of the woods ;

(b) whether Government propose to provide waste land to the forest based industries to grow raw material to protect Government forests ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some forest-based big industries are getting raw material from the State Governments at very nominal rates ;

(d) whether Government have issued guidelines to the States that forests based industries should procure raw material at commercial rates only ;

(e) whether it has come to Government's notice that some State Governments are selling large quantity of their forest goods on nominal rates to the big industries thereby incurring tremendous loss to Forest Department ; and

(f) if so, what measures are being taken to avoid the losses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The New National Forest Policy, 1988 stipulates that farmers, particularly small and marginal farmers would be encouraged to grow wood required for the industries on marginal/degraded lands available with them.

(c) to (f) The National Forest Policy, 1988 stipulates that the practice of supply of forest produce to industry at concessional prices should cease.

The National Forest Policy, 1988, further states that as far as possible the wood based industry should raise the raw material needed for meeting its own requirements, preferably by establishment of direct relationship between the factory and the individuals who can grow raw material by supporting the individuals with inputs including credit, consultant technical advise and finally harvesting and transport services.